

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-06

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AMCONSUL ASMARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SO, US, UK, UR

SUBJECT: SOMALI RCC MEMBERS ALLEGES USG SCHEMING RE DIEGO GARCIA

1. IN JAN 21 EDITION OF CAIRO WEEKLY ROSE AL-YUSUF, THERE IS INTERVIEW OF MUHAMMAD ALI "SIMTER", IDENTIFIED AS VICE CHAIRMAN OFFSOMALI RCC (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY GENERAL MUHAMMAD ALI SAMANTAR, VICE PRESIDENT OF RCC). FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS:
A. SOMALIA AND ALL COUNTRIES ON INDIAN OCEAN ARE CLOSELY WATCHING USG SCHEMING ON DIEGO GARCIA, "THE NEW BASE OF THE AMERICAN FLEET", THE BASE WHICH GOVERNS ARAB MARITIME ROUTES TO INDIA

,
SRI LANKA, AND EAST AFRICA. USG AIMS AT THREATENING SECURITY OF THESE PEOPLE BY PRESSURING THEM, AND WANTS "TO SEIZE WATERWAYS", ESPECIALLY ARABIAN GULF AND RED SEA.

B. ASKED ABOUT AMERICAN ALLEGATIONS THAT USSR HAS NAVAL BASES IN SOMALIA, HE SAID SAME UNTRUE ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ABOUT SOUTH YEMEN AND ARE INTENDED TO JUSTIFY PRESENCE

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OFFUS NAVY BASE IN DIEGO GARCIA.

C. AMERICA'S MILITARY PLANS TO SEIZE ARAB OIL FIELDS CALL FOR "EXTREME CAUTION". LARGE SCALE MILITARY EXERCISES IN AREAS OF SIMILAR TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE TO GULF AND INCREASE IN NUMBER OF USN SHIPS IN SOUTH INDIAN OCEAN HAVE BEEN NOTED. RECENT VISIT OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER HAD "NO OTHER AIM THAN SECURITY". FURTHER, "WE ARE SURE IF AMERICA RISKS THIS STEP (UNSPECIFIED), SHE WILL PUSH THE WORLD TO FULL SCALE WAR."

D. ISRAEL HAS HAD NO NAVAL PRESENCE IN BAB AL-MANDAB SINCE OCTOBER WAR, BUT IS STILL PRESENT IN ERITREA IN THE AMERICAN BASES THERE.

2. ROSE AL-YUSUF IS TRADITIONALLY LEFTWING MAGAZINE WHICH IN RECENT MONTHS HAS BECOME STRIDENTLY AND IRRATIONALLY ANI-AMERICAN AND PRO-SOVIET. IT IS WIDELY READ THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD (IN COUNTRIES WHERE IS IS NOT BANNED).
EILTS

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